

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-68. (Canceled)

69. (Previously presented) A method of determining whether a human has a carcinoma or an increased likelihood of developing a carcinoma, the method comprising:

(a) providing a biological sample from the human, wherein the biological sample comprises a Normal Epithelial Specific-1 (NES1) gene, the expression of which is down-regulated during tumorigenic progression and the sequence of which comprises a coding sequence that encodes a polypeptide that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1; and

(b) examining the expression of the NES1 gene in the biological sample, wherein a decrease in the expression of the NES1 gene relative to expression of a NES1 gene in a control biological sample indicates that the human has a carcinoma or an increased likelihood of developing a carcinoma.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the biological sample comprises an epithelial cell.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the biological sample comprises a breast tissue cell.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the biological sample comprises a cervical tissue cell.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the biological sample comprises a prostate tissue cell.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the expression of the NES1 gene is determined by assaying NES1 mRNA expression.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the expression of the NES1 gene is determined by assaying NES1 protein expression.

76-81. (Canceled)

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the biological sample comprises a cell of the skin, large intestine, lung, liver, brain, kidney, ovary, uterus, stomach, esophagus, nasopharynx, larynx, or a glandular tissue.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the control biological sample is (a) an equivalent biological sample from an unaffected individual; (b) an unaffected biological sample of a similar tissue type from the human; or (c) a standard representing a wild-type level of NES1 expression.

84-99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously presented) A method of determining whether a human has a carcinoma or an increased likelihood of developing a carcinoma, the method comprising:

(a) providing a biological sample from the human, wherein the biological sample comprises a NES1 gene, the expression of which is down-regulated during tumorigenic progression and the sequence of which comprises a coding sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:2; and

(b) examining the expression of the NES1 gene in the biological sample, wherein a decrease in the expression of the NES1 gene relative to expression of an NES1 gene in a control biological sample indicates that the human has a carcinoma or an increased likelihood of developing a carcinoma.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the biological sample comprises an epithelial cell.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the biological sample comprises a breast tissue cell.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the biological sample comprises a cervical tissue cell.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the biological sample comprises a prostate tissue cell.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the expression of the NES1 gene is determined by assaying NES1 mRNA expression.

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the expression of the NES1 gene is determined by assaying NES1 protein expression.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the biological sample comprises a cell of the skin, large intestine, lung, liver, brain, kidney, ovary, uterus, stomach, esophagus, nasopharynx, larynx, or a glandular tissue.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, wherein the control biological sample is (a) an equivalent biological sample from an unaffected individual; (b) an unaffected biological sample of a similar tissue type from the human; or (c) a standard representing a wild-type level of NES1 expression.

109-119. (Canceled)